



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

**Better Hearing and Speech Month**

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 42 million Americans, or 1 in 10 families, have some type of communication disorder, with economic costs exceeding \$30 billion due to lost work productivity, special education, and medical treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, I am pleased to join with all citizens of Rhode Island in celebrating May as Better Hearing and Speech Month; and

**WHEREAS**, because of their tireless work, I salute the 712 audiologists and speech-language pathologists who work in our state to bring better hearing and speech to those individuals who are affected by communication disorders; and

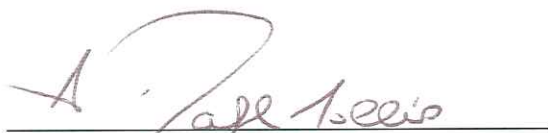
**WHEREAS**, during this monthly observance, we should focus our attention on the needs of our citizens who have some form of hearing, speech, or language impairment to ensure that everyone has access to the audiology and speech-language pathology treatment that will help them lead full and productive lives; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim May, 2012 as Better Hearing and Speech Month in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all citizens to recognize the importance of this month.



Given under my hand and the great  
seal of the State of Rhode Island  
and Providence Plantations,  
this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012

  
Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor

  
A. Ralph Mollis  
Secretary of State